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Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness

## INCIDENT ACTION PLAN - 02



**Incident Name:** Tulane National Primate Research Center 15-005

**Unified Command:**

CDC - RADM Scott Deitchman

GOHSEP - Dir. Kevin Davis

LA DHH - Dr. Jimmy Guidry

St. Tammany - Dir. Dexter Accardo

Approved:

**Operational Period:**

Date: February 10, 2015

Time: 2/10/2015 - 0900hrs to 2/11/2015 - 0900hrs

**St. Tammany Parish EOC**

510 E. Boston Street

Covington, La. 70433

Office: 985-898-2359

**St. Tammany Parish EOC - GPS Coordinates**

30.476016, -90.095449










Prepared By	C.R.Simoneaux	Signature		Date	2/10/15	Time	1000hrs
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## Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness

<b>INCIDENT OBJECTIVES</b>				<b>Incident Number</b>		15-005		<b>ICS 202</b>	
<b>Incident Name</b>		Tulane National Primate Research Center		<b>Operational Period</b>		2/10/2015 0900hrs to 2/11/2015 0900hrs			
<b>Objectives</b>									
<b>1</b>	<b>Investigation process - On Campus: To identify, isolate, remediate and prevent further transmission of BP on campus grounds.</b>								
	<b>Sampling Objectives:</b>								
1.1	To conduct serological sampling to determine potential parameters of transmission exposure.								
1.2	To conduct air sampling to determine potential of aerosolized transmission.								
1.3	To conduct soil sampling within the cages to validate spread of BP in cage-soil.								
1.4	To conduct soil sampling outside the cages to determine if BP has spread beyond enclosures								
1.5	To conduct water sampling around the compound and at discharge points to determine if BP is growing in water discharges.								
	<b>Remediation Objectives:</b>								
1.6	To conduct remediation of enclosures where infected animals were - or are - located.								
1.7	To conduct remediation outside the cages based on soil sampling results.								
1.8	To identify potential mitigation activities should air and/or water samples come back positive.								
<b>2</b>	<b>Surrounding Area - Off Campus: To conduct risk assessment(s) within a meaningful vicinity outside the compound to ascertain need for further sampling wildlife, livestock, and other potential at-risk animals.</b>								
2.1	To conduct risk survey of animals in the area and determine whether these animals require further testing.								
2.2	To utilize findings from the investigative process to determine need for further mitigation activities outside the compound.								
<b>Prepared by</b>		C.R.Simoneaux		<b>Signature</b>				<b>Date</b>	
<b>Approved by</b>				<b>Signature</b>				<b>Date</b>	



## Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness

<b>INCIDENT OBJECTIVES</b>		<b>Incident Number</b>	15-005	<b>ICS 202 (page 2)</b>				
<b>Incident Name</b>	Tulane National Primate Research Center	<b>Operational Period</b>	2/10/2015 0900hrs to 2/11/2015 0900hrs					
<b>Objectives (continued)</b>								
<b>3</b>	<b>Public Communications</b>							
3.1	To formalize JIC members under CDC lead.							
3.2	To develop Frequently Asked Questions document in readiness for public dissemination.							
<b>Operational Period Command Emphasis (Priorities, Key Decisions/Directions)</b>								
<p>Expedient development and implementation of testing and response plans is the Unified Command emphasis, while at all times making decisions which are in the best interest of worker and public safety. Any issues which arise to impede this effort will be immediately communicated to the Unified Command for assistance and resolution. Full compliance with animal health and welfare regulations will be observed, and efforts will be made to minimize impacts to animal welfare.</p>								
<b>NWS Weather Forecast for Covington, La. as of 2/10/2015 at 0600hrs CST</b>								
TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	WEDNESDAY NIGHT	THURSDAY	THURSDAY NIGHT	FRIDAY	FRIDAY NIGHT	SATURDAY
								
Sunny	Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 61 °F	Low: 35 °F	High: 66 °F	Low: 43 °F	High: 60 °F	Low: 29 °F	High: 51 °F	Low: 35 °F	High: 61 °F
National Weather Service Office Slidell, La. 985-649-0429 <a href="http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lix/">http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lix/</a>								
<b>Safety Message / Site Safety Plan</b>								
<p>Safety of response personnel and the general public is paramount. Primary focus will be on strict adherence to safety rules and regulations and proper use of PPE. Any safety concerns, incidents or injuries must be immediately reported to a supervisor and the incident Safety Officer.</p>								
Is a Site Safety Plan Required?		Yes	No	Location of Site Safety Plan:				
<b>Incident Action Plan Components (check if attached)</b>								
x	Incident Action Plan Cover (ICS-200)			Medical Plan (ICS-206)				
x	Incident Objectives (ICS-202)			Site Safety Plan (ICS-208)				
x	Organization Assignment List (ICS-203)			x	Incident Map(s)			
	Assignment List (ICS-204)			x	Joint Press Release 2-9-2015			
x	Communications Plan (ICS-205T)			x	Meliodosis Fact Sheet			
<b>Prepared by</b>	C.R.Simoneaux	<b>Signature</b>		<b>Date</b>		<b>Time</b>		
<b>Approved by</b>		<b>Signature</b>		<b>Date</b>		<b>Time</b>		



## Governor's Office Of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness

<b>ORGANIZATION ASSIGNMENT LIST</b>				<b>Incident Number</b>		15-005		<b>ICS 203</b>	
<b>Incident Name</b>		Tulane National Primate Research Center		<b>Operational Period</b>		2/10/2015 0900hrs to 2/11/2015 0900hrs			
<b>Unified Command</b>				<b>Operations Section</b>					
UC/IC		RADM Scott Deitchman, MD (CDC)		Operations Chief		Miguel Cruz, PhD (CDC)			
UC/IC		Dir. Kevin Davis (GOHSEP)		Dep. Ops Chief		Collins Simoneaux (GOHSEP)			
UC/IC		Jimmy Guidry, MD (LA DHH)		<b>Branch 1 - Investigation Branch</b>					
UC/IC		Dir. Dexter Accardo (St Tammany OHSEP)		Branch Director		Robbin Weyant, PhD (CDC)			
<b>Command Staff</b>									
Safety Officer		Robbin Weyant, PhD (CDC)							
PIO (JIC Primary Contacts)		* See PIO - JIC Information Below *							
Liaison Officer		Darryl Delatte (GOHSEP)							
<b>Agency Representative</b>									
Tulane Primate Center		Dir. Mark Lackner, DVM		<b>Branch 2 - Remediation/Response Branch</b>					
Tulane Primate Center		Mark Alise, PhD		Branch Director		Bill Rhotenberry (EPA)			
USDA/APHIS		Kenneth Angel, DVM		Dep. Branch Dir.		Mike McAteer (EPA)			
USDA/APHIS		Katie Portacci, DVM		Tech Specialist - SSC		Mike Nalipinski (EPA)			
USDA/APHIS		Lily Rai, DVM							
USDA/APHIS		Vicki Guilfor, DVM							
US EPA		John Martin							
CDC/NIOSH		Joshua Harney							
LDAF		Brent Robbins, DVM		<b>Joint Information Center</b>					
LA DHH		Gary Balsamo, DVM		Tulane PIO		Mike Strecker			
LA DHH		Dr. Roseanne Pratts		Tulane PIO		Debbie Grant			
LDEQ		Mike Algero		CDC PIO (Lead)		Barbara Reynolds			
LDEQ		Jeff Dauzat		CDC PIO		Jason McDonald			
				CDC PIO		Christian Scheel			
				CDC PIO		Bernadette Burdin			
<b>Planning Section</b>									
Planning Chief		Melton Gaspard (GOHSEP)		US EPA PIO		Joseph Hubbard			
Dep. Planning Chief		Paul Reeb (St. Tammany Parish)		US EPA PIO		David Gray			
Situation Unit				GOHSEP		Mike Steele			
Resource Unit				LA DHH		Olivia Watkins			
Documentation Unit		Vanessa Wall (St. Tammany Parish)		LDAF		Veronica Mosgrove			
Demobilization Unit				St. Tammany Parish		Ronnie Simpson			
<b>Technical Specialists (Specialty and Name)</b>				<b>Air Operations</b>					
GIS				Air Ops Chief					
<b>Logistics Section</b>				<b>ESF Coordination</b>					
Logistics Chief		Clarence Powe (St. Tammany Parish)		ESF 1 - Transportation					
Dep. Logistics Chief				ESF 2 - Communications					
Service Branch				ESF 3 - Public Works					
Service Branch Dir.				ESF 4 - Fire Fighting					
Communications Unit				ESF 5 - Emergency Mgt.					
IT Unit				ESF 6 - Mass Care & Assistance					
Medical Unit				ESF 7 - Resources					
Food Unit				ESF 8 - Public Health & Medical					
Support Branch				ESF 9 - Search and Rescue					
Support Branch Dir.				ESF 10 - Oil, HazMat					
Supply Unit				ESF 11 - Agriculture & Nat. Res.					
Facilities Unit				ESF 12 - Energy					
Ground Support Unit				ESF 13 - Public Safety & Security					
<b>Finance Section</b>				ESF 14 - Recovery & Mitigation					
Finance Chief				ESF 15 - External Affairs					
Dep. Finance Chief				ESF 16 - Military Affairs					
<b>Prepared by</b>		C.R.Simoneaux		<b>Signature</b>		<b>Date</b>		<b>Time</b>	
<b>Approved by</b>				<b>Signature</b>		<b>Date</b>		<b>Time</b>	



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INCIDENT TELEPHONE/E-MAIL CONTACT LIST		Incident Number	15-005	ICS 205T
Incident Name	Tulane National Primate Research Center		Operational Period	2/10/2015 0900hrs to 2/11/2015 0900hrs
Telephone/Email List				
Agency/Position	Name	Cell Phone	Email	
** Note - See Last Page for PIO/JIC and Public Inquiry Phone Numbers **				
Tulane National Primate Research Center				
Tulane - Director	Andrew Lackner, DVM	985-966-6402	<a href="mailto:alackner@tulane.edu">alackner@tulane.edu</a>	
Tulane - COO	Mark Alise, PhD	985-871-6200	<a href="mailto:malise@tulane.edu">malise@tulane.edu</a>	
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Tulane - PIO	Debbie Grant	504-578-4071	<a href="mailto:dgrant@tulane.edu">dgrant@tulane.edu</a>	
St. Tammany Parish Contacts				
St Tammany Parish - President	Patricia Brister	985-898-2362	<a href="mailto:pbrister@stpgov.org">pbrister@stpgov.org</a>	
St Tammany Parish - OHSEP Dir.	Dexter Accardo	985-264-1087	<a href="mailto:daccardo@stpgov.org">daccardo@stpgov.org</a>	
St Tammany Parish - OHSEP	Clarence Powe	985-290-7654	<a href="mailto:cpowe@stpgov.org">cpowe@stpgov.org</a>	
St Tammany Parish - OSHEP	Paul Reeb	985-774-9710	<a href="mailto:pjreeb@stpgov.org">pjreeb@stpgov.org</a>	
St Tammany Parish - PIO	Ronnie Simpson	504-905-7841	<a href="mailto:rsimpson@stpgov.org">rsimpson@stpgov.org</a>	
Louisiana State Agency Contacts				
Governor's Office	Sarah Turner		<a href="mailto:sarah.turner@la.gov">sarah.turner@la.gov</a>	
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GOHSEP - Operations Sect. Chief	Sean Wyatt	225-754-2225	<a href="mailto:sean.wyatt@la.gov">sean.wyatt@la.gov</a>	
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GOHSEP - OpsO/WebEOC Admin	Melton Gaspard	985-634-2520	<a href="mailto:melton.gaspard@la.gov">melton.gaspard@la.gov</a>	
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GOHSEP - Logistics Chief	Michael Hamilton	225-335-1226	<a href="mailto:michael.hamilton@la.gov">michael.hamilton@la.gov</a>	
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GOHSEP - PIO	Mike Steele	225-788-0095	<a href="mailto:mike.steele@la.gov">mike.steele@la.gov</a>	
LA DHH - Secretary	Kathy Kliebert		<a href="mailto:kathy.kleibert@la.gov">kathy.kleibert@la.gov</a>	
LA DHH - Health Officer	Jimmy Guidry, MD	225-342-3417	<a href="mailto:jguidry@la.gov">jguidry@la.gov</a>	
LA DHH - Exec. Dir. Emerg. Prep.	Rosanne Prats, PhD	225-938-8059	<a href="mailto:rosanne.prats@la.gov">rosanne.prats@la.gov</a>	
LA DHH - R9 Hosp. DRC	Keith Peek	985-290-2642	<a href="mailto:keith.peek@la.gov">keith.peek@la.gov</a>	
LA DHH - Program Manager	Theresa Sokol	504-250-8672	<a href="mailto:theresa.sokol@la.gov">theresa.sokol@la.gov</a>	
LA DHH - State PH Veterinarian	Gary Balsamo, DVM	504-568-8315	<a href="mailto:gary.balsamo@la.gov">gary.balsamo@la.gov</a>	
LA DHH - PIO	Olivia Watkins	225-610-6660	<a href="mailto:olivia.watkins@la.gov">olivia.watkins@la.gov</a>	



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**Tulane National Primate Research Center**  
18703 3 Rivers Road, Covington, LA 70433







#### **Update: Ongoing Inquiry into Melioidosis Illness at Tulane National Research Center**

Late November 2014, two non-human primates in the breeding colony at the Tulane National Primate Research Center (TNPRC), a private research facility, became ill and one was euthanized. In mid-December 2014, samples submitted to the CDC identified *Burkholderia Pseudomallei* as the causative agent. This strain of bacteria is not endemic in the US but was the subject of research at TNPRC. Because *Burkholderia Pseudomallei* is a tier 1 agent and the material was considered not in containment, the CDC and USDA initiated a joint investigation of TNPRC in January 2015. As part of the investigation conducted January 20-24, federal and state scientists visited the TNPRC site to conduct epidemiological study and to review lab practices to determine possible route of transmission.

A recent event is that one of the investigators fell ill with unspecific symptoms. A blood test was conducted and Friday test results indicated a presence of antibodies in the blood indicating some exposure to *BURKHOLDERIA PSEUDOMALLEI*. It is too early to determine whether exposure was related to this recent visit to the center or whether the sick individual's travel history may have provided an opportunity for exposure.

The other members of the investigative team will be tested for possible exposure to the bacteria for baseline comparison and possible future diagnosis. This testing will provide some indication regarding route of transmission.

The Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, along with the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), continues to work with Tulane University and state and local officials to identify, isolate, mitigate and prevent further transmission of *BURKHOLDERIA PSEUDOMALLEI* within the compound. Environmental testing – including Air, water, soil sampling – will guide remediation activities. Once samples are collected, it will take 1-2 weeks to obtain results.

**Situational Update: Monday, February 9, 2015, as of 4pm CST**

#### **EPA:**

- Deployed 3 air monitors at the facility in strategic locations.
- Water samples were collected by Tulane at 13 different locations on the grounds (Waste water treatment system locations)
- Work to collect soil samples begins later this week.



- All samples are being sent to CDC Atlanta for examination.
- Results are typically available 5-7 days after being collected.

**CDC:**

- Help provide guidance for Personal Protective Equipment and safety standards.
- Continuing the on-site investigative work with USDA.
- Asked to examine how materials are being moved throughout the facility, additional safety precautions.

**LA Office of Public Health:**

- Coordinate the effort to catalog personnel for baseline blood sampling
- OPH has organized the staff, equipment and process to obtain the blood samples in accordance with CDC protocols.

Melioidosis, also called Whitmore's disease, is an infectious disease that can infect humans or animals and is treatable with antibiotics. The disease is caused by the bacterium *Burkholderia pseudomallei*. It is predominately a disease of tropical climates, especially in Southeast Asia and northern Australia where it is widespread. The bacteria causing melioidosis are found in contaminated water and soil. It is spread to humans and animals through direct contact with the contaminated source.

CDC's role is to protect the health and safety of researchers and the public. For more information about melioidosis, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/melioidosis/index.html>. Questions regarding the investigation and remediation activities should be directed to CDC (Jason McDonald) at 404-387-3660. Questions regarding the TPNRC facility should be directed to Tulane (Mike Strecker) at 504-512-1347. All other questions or concerns should be directed to Mike Steele at [Mike.Steele@La.gov](mailto:Mike.Steele@La.gov).

###



Ronnie Simpson  
Director of Public Information &  
Intergovernmental Relations

St. Tammany Parish Government  
Department of Public Information  
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[www.stpgov.org](http://www.stpgov.org)



## Melioidosis Fact Sheet

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### What is melioidosis?

Melioidosis is a disease that affects humans and animals and is caused by the gram-negative bacterium *Burkholderia pseudomallei*. These bacteria are normally found in water and soil in certain parts of the world, including Southeast Asia and Northern Australia. Melioidosis can be severe and, in some cases, even fatal. Melioidosis has been found in a variety of animals, including mammals, reptiles, fish, and birds in or from areas where the disease is endemic.

### How do people get melioidosis?

People can get melioidosis in several ways:

- When contaminated soil or water gets into their open wounds, abrasions, or their eyes, nose or mouth (mucous membranes).
- When they swallow food or water contaminated with the bacteria.
- When they improperly handle laboratory specimens contaminated with the bacteria.
- When they breathe in contaminated dust or water droplets.

In addition, it's theoretically possible that people might become infected when they have contact with body fluids from an infected animal.

### What are the signs and symptoms of melioidosis?

Signs and symptoms of melioidosis vary depending on the type of infection and can easily be mistaken for other diseases such as pneumonia or tuberculosis. The incubation period ranges from one day to many years.

- For wound infections, signs and symptoms include localized pain or swelling.
- For pulmonary infections, signs and symptoms include cough, headache, fever, chest pain, anorexia (lack of appetite), and general muscle soreness.
- For bloodstream infections, signs and symptoms include high fever, headache, respiratory distress, disorientation, abdominal discomfort, and muscle tenderness.
- For infections that have spread throughout the body, signs and symptoms include fever, weight loss, stomach or chest pain, muscle or joint pain, headache, and encephalitis or seizures.

### How is melioidosis diagnosed?

Melioidosis is diagnosed by isolating *Burkholderia pseudomallei* from the blood, urine, sputum, or skin lesions or from organ abscesses or by testing blood serum.

### How is melioidosis treated?

Antibiotic treatment for melioidosis should start as soon as the disease is confirmed. Delaying treatment can result in poor outcomes. A physician will determine the most appropriate antibiotic treatment for a patient with a confirmed case of melioidosis.

Suggested reference: Wiersinga WJ, Currie BJ, Peacock SJ. Melioidosis. *N Engl J Med*. 2012;367(11):1035-44



**Am I at risk?**

You are at risk for exposure to melioidosis if:

- You have had contact with soil or water in countries where the disease is endemic.
- You work with laboratory specimens contaminated with the bacteria.

There are only a few documented cases in which melioidosis has been spread from person to person in a healthcare facility (known as nosocomial transmissions). Transmission from an infected animal to a human has not been confirmed, but theoretically, it is possible.

The following conditions may increase your risk for getting melioidosis if you are exposed: **diabetes, chronic liver or kidney disease, alcohol abuse, blood cancers** such as leukemia (hematologic malignancy), **low white blood cell count** (neutropenia or neutrophil dysfunction), **chronic lung disease** (asthma, bronchitis, emphysema, or cystic fibrosis), **thalassemia** (a blood disorder), **long-term steroid use**, or other **conditions that suppress the body's ability to fight infections** (immunosuppression).

**How can melioidosis be prevented?**

Currently, there is no vaccine to prevent melioidosis infection, but there are steps you can take to protect yourself from exposure:

- People working in agricultural settings in endemic areas should wear boots to prevent infection through the feet and lower legs.
- People traveling to endemic countries should take precautions to avoid contact with contaminated soil, especially if they have any open wounds, cuts, or scrapes.
- Healthcare workers should use standard contact precautions (mask, gloves, and gown). Additionally, testing on *B. pseudomallei* organisms should be performed inside a biosafety cabinet. Safe laboratory practices/procedures should be followed when working with the organism.
- All laboratory exposures (high and low risk) should be reported to the [CDC Division of Select Agents and Toxins \(DSAT\)](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/14/7/07-1501_article). The guidelines to assess laboratory exposure, including classification of low versus high risk, can be found at [http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/14/7/07-1501\\_article](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/14/7/07-1501_article)

**How long does *Burkholderia pseudomallei* live on a surface?**

3-7 days. In tests, the bacteria was applied at room temperature to surfaces such as paper, stainless steel, glass, and polyethylene. It was still there after 3 days but not after 7 days.

**How do you kill *Burkholderia pseudomallei*?**

*Burkholderia pseudomallei* can be killed by using any EPA-registered hospital disinfectant such as 1:10 bleach and quaternary ammonium compounds. In chlorinated water, the bacteria would not survive because they are susceptible to standard residual levels of chlorine. The bacteria are also susceptible to low levels of ultraviolet light.

